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COVER: Red-shouldered Hawk nest at McDonogh, Md., April 1936.

Photo by Brooke Meanley.

NEW HEADINGS: by William N. Schneider.

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NEST RECORDS OF THE BROWN THRASHER IN MARYLAND

Willet T. Van Velzen

The Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) is a fairly common breeding bird throughout Maryland. It is frequently found nesting close to man and is therefore quite well known, even to the casual bird observer.

The winter range of this species is recorded (AOU 1957) as extending from southern Maryland south to the Gulf Coast. Stewart and Robbins (1958) consider it to be uncommon to rare during the winter on the Eastern Shore and Western Shore sections and casual in the Upper Chesapeake. The normal spring migration period extends from March 25 to May 10 and normal fall migration dates range from September 5 to October 15. The peak period for birds banded at the Ocean City Operation Recovery Station during 1963-1967 was September 17-27, when 43 percent (241 out of 564) of the fall migrants were captured. An interesting "reverse migration" for this species was reported by Church (1967); 2 thrashers banded at Ocean City during fall migration in 1966 went north instead of south and were recovered that winter in Massachusetts. Stewart and Robbins (1958) mention 3 thrashers that were banded in Maryland and recovered on the coastal plain of North and South Carolina, for a more normally expected southern movement. More recently 2 others banded at Ocean City have been recovered in Georgia.

It is difficult to construct a complete picture of the breeding activities of a species from the examination of nest record cards. Most cards record only one or two observations; few cards have all the data one would desire for a nesting record. Nevertheless, each card usually has some information that adds to the general nesting picture. By examining a sufficiently large number of cards, much can be learned.

A total of 396 cards from the MOS nest card file were reviewed. Of this total, 202 cards contained only 1 observation and 73 cards had 2 observations of the same nest. Of the remaining cards, 48 recorded 3 observations, 22 had 4, 11 had 5 and 16 had 6-9. Only 24 cards contained daily observations, thus providing a complete record of nest success.

Breeding Season

The exact timing of the nesting cycle is difficult to ascertain from our nest record cards. Although the highest percentage of the total nests was found during May, this quite likely reflects the amount of observer activity during the early part of the breeding season. Later, as observer enthusiasm ebbs and nests become harder to locate, a significant decrease in observer activity is likely to occur. Thus, without knowing the hours of effort applied in searching for nests, definite conclusions are difficult to reach.

Stewart and Robbins (1958) record the nesting season from mid-April to early August which, of course, closely follows the nest cards, because that data source was used for their publication. As is shown in Table 1, the largest number of nests with full clutches were recorded between May 11 and 31. Evidence of two broods was given on only one card. The thrashers used the same nest for both clutches.

TABLE 1
SEASONAL VARIATION IN CLUTCH SIZE OF BROWN THRASHER IN MARYLAND

DATES	NUMBER OF EGGS								TOTAL NESTS	MEAN CLUTCH SIZE
	PIEDMONT				COASTAL PLAIN					
	2	3	4	5	2	3	4	5		
APRIL 20-30			1				1		2	3.5
MAY 1-10		1	2		2		3		8	3.4
11-20		2	9	6		1	6		24	4.1
21-31		5	7	7		2	3		24	4.0
JUNE 1-10				3	1		1	2	9	4.2
11-20			3	1	2		1		7	3.7
21-30		1	5			1		1	8	2.9
JULY 1-10		1	4				1		6	2.8
11-20			2						2	3.0
TOTAL		2	23	22	16	3	6	16	2	90
MEAN CLUTCH SIZE			3.8				3.6			3.77

The earliest nest building activity was recorded on April 9; the last on July 18. The first eggs were recorded on April 18 and the last full clutch on July 20. Nestlings were recorded between May 3 and August 6. Young birds, just out of the nest and being fed by the parent birds, were recorded between May 21 and August 27.

Nest Sites

Nests were most commonly built in very dense vegetation, with a preference shown those plants which offer thorny protection. Honeysuckle (21%), cultivated roses (10%), and greenbriar (7%) housed 38 percent of the nests. Another 14 percent were built in miscellaneous ornamental bushes.

The seasonal variation in height of nests in Maryland is shown in Table 2 together with data from the study of Taylor (1965) in Louisiana. The average height of nests in both states increased between the beginning and end of the nesting season. In both states the increase from May to July was approximately one foot. It is interesting to note that the average height of Louisiana nests was about twice that of Maryland nests for corresponding months. Nine percent of the Maryland nests were placed on the ground whereas the lowest nest found in Louisiana was at 1.5 feet. Although a Maryland nest (25 ft.) exceeded the highest Louisiana nest (18 ft.), 32 percent of the Louisiana nests were over 10 feet above ground, compared with 3 percent of the Maryland nests.

A list of the plants used as nest sites and the percentage of nests found in each are shown in Table 3. Totals are given for each plant during every month in which nests were found.



BROWN THRASHER AT NEST.

PHOTO BY CHARLES J. STINE

TABLE 2
SEASONAL VARIATION IN BROWN THRASHER NEST HEIGHT

HEIGHT (FEET)	NUMBER OF NESTS						TOTAL MD.	TOTAL LA.
	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY			
0			15	12	1	28 (9%)		0 (0%)
0.1-0.9		1	2	1		4		
1-1.9			6	2	1	9		(1-3.5')
2-2.9		3	22	2	2	29 (13%)		15 (14%)
3-3.9		9	34	11	7	61		
4-4.9		7	32	19	9	67		(4-6.5')
5-5.9		2	28	14	7	51 (57%)		37 (34%)
6-6.9		1	14	13	1	29		
7-7.9			3	5	2	10		(7-9.5')
8-8.9			4	10	3	17 (18%)		22 (20%)
10 & OVER			4	4	1	9 (3%)		34 (32%)
TOTAL NESTS								
MD.		23	164	93	34	314		
LA.	2	24	8	36	19	89		
MEAN HEIGHT								
MD.		3.5	3.9	4.9	4.8	4.3		
LA.	6.8	6.2	9.1	9.3	10.2			8.6

Clutch Size

In Table 1 the data are divided into 2 regions: Piedmont and Coastal Plain, according to 10-day periods, from April 20 through July 20. The average clutch size in both regions is very similar, as is the time period in which the largest number of complete clutches were found. No records for the area west of the Piedmont are included in Table 1, because the few cards from this area had only single observations of each nest; most western Maryland observations seem to have coincided with the (June) vacation periods of the observers and thus do not give an accurate picture of the timing of the breeding season in that part of the State.

The seasonal range of the mean clutch size is shown in Table 1. From mid-May through mid-July the mean clutch size tended to decline gradually from approximately 4 to 3 eggs per nest.

Incubation and Nestling Periods

Only 11 nest cards yielded data complete enough to determine either the incubation or nestling period. Six incubation periods were recorded as 12 days and 3 as 13 days. This is in keeping with the 11-14 day incubation period given by Bent (1948), who summarized the work of several observers. Of the 8 nestling periods recorded, 1 was 10-11 days, 2 were 11-12 days, 4 were 12 days and 1 was 14 days. These average about 12 days as compared to the average 11 day nestling period given by Erwin

(1935) from a study of 12 successful nests in Tennessee.

TABLE 3
BROWN THRASHER NEST SITES IN MARYLAND

	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	TOTAL	PERCENTAGE
ROSE	5	15	3	6	29	10
HONEYSUCKLE	2	21	4	-	27	9
GREENBRIAR	3	7	9	3	22	7
FORSYTHIA	1	11	6	-	18	6
CEDAR	2	11	3	-	16	5
PINE	-	7	6	2	15	5
HAWTHORN	-	8	4	1	13	4
MULTIFLORA ROSE	1	7	3	-	11	4
BLACKBERRY	1	2	5	2	10	3
HOLLY	2	2	2	2	8	3
LILAC	1	5	2	-	8	3
GRAPE VINES	-	3	4	-	7	2
OAK	-	1	6	-	7	2
SPIREA	-	1	1	4	6	2
ARROW-WOOD	-	2	3	-	5	2
BOXWOOD	-	3	1	1	5	2
APPLE	-	1	2	1	4	1
SPRUCE	-	1	2	1	4	1
PRIVET	-	3	1	1	3	1
MISC. BUSHES	5	19	13	4	41	14
MISC. BRIARS	1	13	1	4	19	7
BRUSH PILE	1	8	-	-	8	3
MISC. TREES	-	1	4	2	7	2
MISC. VINES	-	1	2	1	4	1
MISC. CONIFERS	-	2	1	-	3	1

Nest Success

It is especially difficult to determine nest success from nest record cards when the majority of cards record only 1 or 2 visits. Failure is often easy to record with as few as 2 visits, while success requires observations to the fledging stage. In addition, those nests which are most easily found by humans are also quite likely to be found by predators, whereas well-hidden nests may escape detection by both. On the other hand a serious bias toward success can occur. Surely, many nests fail at an early stage and thus are never found, whereas those that succeed for some time (and that will be successful) are more likely to be found. The ideal situation then would be to use only those nests that were found during the building stage. Unfortunately, too few cards record so complete a picture!

The success of most nests was unknown and was not included on 231 nest cards. Of the remainder, 76 nests were known to be deserted or destroyed, while 65 successfully fledged at least one young. An additional 24 cards recorded young out of the nest at the first observation.

The largest percentage of successful nests was recorded during July as is shown in Table 4 (tabulated by the month of the first observation). It has been pointed out above that the success of a large proportion of the nests was unknown, and these nests are not included in the table.

TABLE 4
BROWN THRASHER NEST SUCCESS ACCORDING TO MONTH

	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY
SUCCESSFUL	4 (27%)	27 (39%)	21 (57%)	13 (72%)
UNSUCCESSFUL	11 (73%)	43 (61%)	16 (43%)	5 (28%)

Table 5 shows success according to nest height. Although 44 percent of the nests from 0 to 1.9 feet were recorded as successful, only 25 percent of the ground nests actually fledged young. The most successful nests (57%) were those over 10 feet above ground.

TABLE 5
BROWN THRASHER NEST SUCCESS ACCORDING TO HEIGHT

HEIGHT (FEET)	0-1.9	2-3.9	4-5.9	6-8	10 & OVER
SUCCESSFUL	7 (44%)	13 (42%)	30 (48%)	9 (47%)	4 (57%)
UNSUCCESSFUL	9 (56%)	18 (58%)	33 (52%)	10 (53%)	3 (43%)

Failure was attributed to unknown causes in the largest number (33) of cases. Another 18 were listed as deserted (presumably in the egg stage or earlier). The remainder were destroyed by the following: cat, 6; predator (?), 4; humans, 3; dog, 1; squirrel, 1; crow, 1; and wind, 1. Forty-one percent of the unsuccessful nests were placed in miscellaneous ornamental bushes. Of the 65 successful nests, 24 (37%) were built in plants that offered thorny protection (greenbrier, 9; rose, 9; holly, 2; hawthorn, 2; briars, 2).

Parasitism by the Brown-headed Cowbird was recorded in only 3 instances. Hergenrader (1962) mentions that the Brown Thrasher is a very uncommon victim of the cowbird and none of the 17 nests in his Nebraska study were parasitized. A survey of the literature by Young (1963) also showed that the Brown Thrasher was a very infrequent host of the cowbird. The single parasitized nest, out of 14, in a Pennsylvania study by Norris (1947), failed to produce a young cowbird. In his early work Friedmann (1929) also pointed out the rarity at which thrashers were parasitized by cowbirds and stated that only one record existed where a young cowbird was actually fledged. In his recent work (Friedmann, 1963), however, he mentions 31 actual records of cowbird parasitism, including several cases where young cowbirds have been fledged. Despite this number of records, the young cowbird out of the nest, being fed by a pair of thrashers at Greenbelt on June 5, 1959 (reported by David Bridge), is especially interesting. The observer was not sure whether this instance was an

incidental feeding of the young bird (as has been recorded many times with other birds) or whether the thrashers were actually raising the young cowbird.

Thanks are extended to all those members of the Maryland Ornithological Society who have contributed to the Nest Card file over the past years and especially to Edwin O. Willis, whose extremely detailed cards were the only ones that provided complete incubation and nestling period data.

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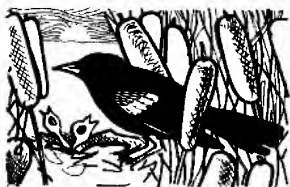
Migratory Bird Populations Station, Laurel

FIRST WINTER RECORD OF SNOWY EGRET IN MARYLAND

Jan G. Reese

On December 31, 1967, while participating in the annual St. Michaels Christmas Bird Count, Trew Higsby, Warren King and I flushed a Snowy Egret (*Leucophoyx thula*) from an extensive marshy area at Lowe's Point near Sherwood, Talbot County. This sighting was not only a first for the St. Michaels Christmas Count, but it is the first winter record of the Snowy Egret in Maryland.

St. Michaels



NEST SUMMARY

MARYLAND NEST SUMMARY FOR 1967

Danny Bystak

In 1967 there was an encouraging increase in nest card reports. The downhill trend which started in 1964 seems to have been reversed. The number of observers rose from 33 in 1966 to 40 in 1967; the number of nests reported nearly tripled; and the number of species jumped from an all-time low of 71 to a respectable 94 (7 below the 19-year average). Maryland had its first breeding record of free-flying Mute Swans in 1967. And for the first time the contents of a Brown Creeper nest were observed in Maryland, establishing this northern species as a breeder on the Coastal Plain.

Reports were received from only 16 counties this year. It is hoped that visitors to, and residents of, Maryland's western, southern, and northeastern counties will make a more substantial effort in 1968.

Jan Reese and Donald Messersmith again made valuable contributions, with Reese's 158 Osprey nests and Messersmith's 130 Red-wing nests from their studies on the Eastern Shore. Richard D. Benedict again submitted valuable information on coastal birds in the form of 1,192 young herons, egrets, gulls, and terns he banded in Worcester County.

The bluebird house project sponsored by the Laurel Rotary Club and the Patuxent Chapter of MOS is having significant results; 15 of the 17 bluebird nests reported this year are from this project. The highest total for this species in recent years is 21. We hope they are increasing.

Jan Reese and Donald Meritt continued their Osprey survey in Talbot and Queen Annes Counties. They recorded the following species nesting in or on duck blinds: Green Heron, Canada Goose, Black Duck, Mallard, Osprey, Barn Owl, and Barn Swallow. Who checks blinds in other counties?

Special thanks are extended to Arlene Delario, Roberta Fletcher, and Ted Van Velzen for their greatly increased efforts and detailed nest cards, and to Jerry Longcore for his excellent coverage of nests on the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.

Table 1 shows, by counties, the distribution of species, observers, nests, and cards for the 1967 season.

Table 1. County and State Totals for 1967

<u>County</u>	<u>Number of Species</u>	<u>Number of Observers</u>	<u>Number of Nests</u>	<u>Number of Cards</u>
Anne Arundel	23	4	57	57
Baltimore	6	2	6	6
Calvert	6	4	6	6
Caroline	28	6	41	41
Charles	1	1	2	2
Dorchester	5	3	6	6
Frederick	3	1	3	3
Garrett	3	1	3	3
Howard	10	9	32	32
Kent	13	1	26	26
Montgomery	4	2	4	4
Prince Georges	<u>32</u>	<u>12</u>	59	59
Queen Annes	8	3	269	<u>145</u>
Talbot	21	3	<u>969</u>	<u>57</u>
Wicomico	1	1	1	1
Worcester	<u>22</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>75*</u>
State Totals	94	40	1,533	523

The 40 observers who participated in 1967 are listed below. The number in parentheses shows the number of cards each person submitted: Philip C. Ambler (1), William L. Anderson (3), Henry T. Armistead (3), Mike Baker (4), Richard D. Benedict (14), David Bridge (3), M. Butenshoen (9), M. L. Butler (1), Danny Bystrak (39), Paul Bystrak (24), Steve Bystrak (1), Scott Clemson (1), Esther Cook (2), Shirley M. Coon (2), Aldeen Couch (16), Mrs. Joseph Craven (1), Arlene Delario (26), Samuel H. Dyke (1), Ethel Engle (6), Roberta B. Fletcher (22), Mrs. B. Hacker (1), David Heasley (1), Marvin W. Hewitt (1), Norbert G. Lassahn (1), Jerry Longcore (26), Robert B. McCaw (1), Brooke Meanley (1), Don Meritt and Jen Reese (73), Donald Messersmith (133), Ann Miller (1), Harold Norwood (1), Mrs. J. Merle Poe (1), Dorothy Rauth (4), Chandler Robbins (10), George Robbins (8), Eleanor Robbins (25), Willet T. Van Velzen (54), William Wargo (1), and Mrs. Leslie Welsh (1).

Brief notes on all 94 species recorded have been included in the following list. Record-breaking dates have been underscored.

Annotated List

GREAT BLUE HERON--175-200 adults observed in Talbot Co. heronry on June 10 (JR,DM).

GREEN HERON--88 nests reported in Queen Annes Co. in June and July; 82 nests in Talbot Co. with eggs as early as April 29 and as late as July 16. Largest clutch, 5 eggs (JR,DM).

LITTLE BLUE HERON--Colony in Worcester Co.; 99 young banded in June (RDB).

* includes cards for young banded out of the nest

- CATTLE EGRET--Colony in Worcester Co.; 15 young banded in June (RDB).
COMMON EGRET--Colony in Worcester Co.; 120 young banded in June (RDB).
SNOWY EGRET--Colony in Worcester Co.; 122 young banded in June (RDB).
Three nests in Queen Annes Co. (JR,DM).
GLOSSY IBIS--Colony in Worcester Co.; 46 young banded in June (RDB).
LOUISIANA HERON--Colony in Worcester Co.; 47 young banded in June (RDB).
BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON--79 young banded in Worcester Co. colony (RDB).
MUTE SWAN--Adults and young observed in Talbot Co. from late April to late September (JR,DM). Adults seen with 4 cygnets at Linchester Pond, Caroline Co., May 18 (MWH).
CANADA GOOSE--Nest with 5 eggs on a Talbot Co. duck blind on April 23.
BLACK DUCK--7 nests reported. Largest clutch, 11 eggs.
MALLARD--9 nests reported (7 from Talbot Co.); largest clutch, 21 eggs.
WOOD DUCK--Adults with 3 young in Denton on July 7. Five young left a nest on June 17 in Howard Co. (DR).
BALD EAGLE--Birds observed at a Talbot Co. nest from March 11 to June 10 (JR,DM).
OSPREY--161 nests reported from 4 counties.
BOBWHITE--4 nests reported from 3 counties. Largest clutch, 18 eggs.
KING RAIL--1 nest at Patuxent W.R.C. had 5 eggs on May 25 and 8 on May 28 (BM).
CLAPPER RAIL--Astounding total of 36 nests for Worcester Co. in June (WTV & AC). Mean clutch size was 6.9. Largest clutch was 11.
KILLDEER--4 nests reported; 2 had full clutch of 4 eggs.
WILLET--9 nests from Worcester Co. in June; 1 nest with 5 eggs (most unusual--WTV,MB).
HERRING GULL--7 young banded at Robins Marsh on July 12 (RDB).
LAUGHING GULL--383 young banded at Robins Marsh on July 12 (RDB).
FORSTER'S TERN--194 young banded in Worcester Co., June 4 to July 12.
COMMON TERN--69 young banded in Worcester Co. as late as August 2 (RDB). 538 nests in Talbot Co. (JR,DM).
LEAST TERN--Worcester, Kent, and Talbot Cos.; 186 nests total. First report of bayside nests in a long time.
BLACK SKIMMER--Only 11 young banded in Worcester Co., August 2.
ROCK DOVE--One nest in Anne Arundel Co. with 1 egg on May 6 (PB).
MOURNING DOVE--6 nests in 4 counties. Last young left nest, Sept. 14.
BARN OWL--19 nests in Talbot and Queen Annes Cos., mostly in duck blinds (JR,DM). Largest clutch, 7 eggs.
WHIP-POOR-WILL--1 nest with 2 eggs in Caroline Co. on May 6 (RBF).
RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD--2 nests in Caroline Co. (RBF). First egg, May 16; last young left nest, August 22.
HAIRY WOODPECKER--Young in a Prince Georges Co. nest, June 2-5 (CSR).
DOWNY WOODPECKER--One nest in Anne Arundel Co. with young squealing on May 31. Two nests with young in Prince Georges Co. on June 7.
EASTERN KINGBIRD--3 nests reported from 2 counties. One with eggs on July 22, Prince Georges Co. (WTV).
GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER--3 nests reported from 3 counties. Only one with contents reported: 3 young on July 1 (RBF).
EASTERN PHOEBE--18 nests reported from 5 counties: 6 in or on buildings, 12 under bridges. Eggs from April 23 to June 24.
ACADIAN FLYCATCHER--1 nest in Montgomery Co. with 2 eggs on June 3 (WTV).
EASTERN WOOD PEWEE--2 nests reported; adults feeding young out of the

nest in Caroline Co. as late as Sept. 16.

TREE SWALLOW--3 nests at Denton; young in one box as late as July 9. Nest at Patuxent W.R.C., June 6, is first for inland Western Shore (WTV).



Eastern Wood Pewee at nest, Lake Roland, 1935. Photo by Brooke Meanley

BANK SWALLOW--Colony observed in Talbot Co., May 27 and July 2 (JR,DM).

ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW--Nest in Baltimore Co. contained 2 eggs on May 21.

BARN SWALLOW--7 nests from 4 counties. One on a duck blind, one on a porch, and 5 under bridges.

CLIFF SWALLOW--4 fresh nests on Brighton Dam, June 3 (WTV).

PURPLE MARTIN--2 nests in Kent Co. produced 4 young each in July (AD).

BLUE JAY--4 nests in 2 counties. Eggs on April 21 in Anne Arundel Co.

CAROLINA CHICKADEE--4 nests, one with 6 eggs, May 13, Anne Arundel Co.

TUFTED TITMOUSE--3 nests, one with 7 eggs on May 16, Prince Georges Co.

BROWN CREEPER--Nest at Patuxent W.R.C. with 5 young, $\frac{1}{4}$ grown on June 8 (WTV--Maryland Birdlife 23 (3):68-69).

CAROLINA WREN--5 eggs, June 3, Talbot Co.; 4 eggs, July 1, Prince Georges.

HOUSE WREN--8 nests. Eggs, May 23 to July 18. Largest clutch, 6 eggs.

A pair in Anne Arundel Co. raised 2 broods of 5 each; incubation period for second brood was 16 days.

LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN--A Dorchester Co. nest had 5 eggs, June 11 (WTV).

MOCKINGBIRD--10 nests. One in Anne Arundel Co. was in a lamp post, all others in shrubs and trees. Mean height of 9 nests was 4.7 ft.

CATBIRD--6 nests reported from 3 counties. Eggs from May 20 to July 15. Mean height of 6 nests was 5.8 ft.

BROWN THRASHER--3 nests reported from 2 counties. One shared a tree with

a Chipping Sparrow in Calvert Co.

ROBIN--15 nests reported from 6 counties; mean height was 12 ft.

WOOD THRUSH--6 nests. Eggs as early as May 13 in Anne Arundel Co.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD--17 nests; 9 successful, 3 unsuccessful, 5 unknown.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER--Nest building in Worcester Co. on April 23.

STARLING--5 nests reported; only one in a natural cavity.

WHITE-EYED VIREO--2 nests, 3 and $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft. up. A nest in Worcester Co. had eggs on July 26 (SHD).

RED-EYED VIREO--A nest at Patuxent W.R.C. had 3 eggs on May 28 (JRL).

WARBLING VIREO--Adult seen incubating in Montgomery Co. on June 3 (WTV).

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER--Male building in Tree Swallow box in Denton.

YELLOW WARBLER--A nest in Baltimore Co. had 4 eggs on May 21 (PGB).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER--Nest building observed on April 22 and May 14; both in Worcester Co.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER--Female building nest in bracken fern on June 24 in Garrett Co.

PRAIRIE WARBLER--8 nests at Patuxent W.R.C. in May, 7 of them in blackberries. Mean height was $2\frac{1}{4}$ ft. Largest clutch was 5 eggs (JRL).



Prairie Warbler at nest, Patuxent W.R.C., June 10, 1945
Photo by Ralph E. Lawrence

- OVENBIRD--Young seen out of the nest at Patuxent W.R.C., June 5.
- LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH--Patuxent W.R.C. nest had 3 young, May 27 (JRL).
- KENTUCKY WARBLER--2 nests at Patuxent W.R.C. had clutches of 5 and 4; they hatched on June 6 and July 7 (CSR).
- YELLOWTHROAT--A nest at Patuxent W.R.C. had 5 eggs, May 30--June 2.
- HOODED WARBLER--A nest containing one cowbird egg on May 24 was abandoned later; Anne Arundel Co. (PB).
- CANADA WARBLER--Female feeding young unable to fly in Garrett Co. on June 24 (WTV).
- AMERICAN REDSTART--2 nests reported. One in Anne Arundel Co. had 4 eggs on May 24; one in Prince Georges Co. had 3 eggs on May 28 and 3 young on June 2.
- HOUSE SPARROW--17 nests reported from 3 counties. Eggs from April 21 to August 6 in Anne Arundel Co. One Anne Arundel Co. nest had a 15-day incubation period.
- EASTERN MEADOWLARK--A Kent Co. nest had 4 eggs on May 25 (AD).
- RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD--163 active nests reported from 5 counties. Largest clutch, 5 eggs. Average height of 126 nests was 4.2 ft.
- ORCHARD ORIOLE--Parents feeding young in nest in Prince Georges Co. on May 27 (GR). Young left 2 Caroline Co. nests, June 23, July 1 (RBF).
- BALTIMORE ORIOLE--Parents feeding young in nests in Caroline Co. in May and in Garrett Co. in June. The Caroline Co. nest produced 3 young. A Howard Co. nest produced 2 young (DR).
- BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD--Eggs found in the nests of: Eastern Phoebe (2), Hooded Warbler (1), Scarlet Tanager (1), and Field Sparrow (1).
- COMMON GRACKLE--Young in nests in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, and Kent Cos. Jan Reese and Donald Meritt observed approximately 400 nests throughout Talbot Co., ranging in height from 1 to 30 ft., with late incubation dates of July 16 (5 nests), July 30 (1 nest), and August 16 (1 nest).
- SCARLET TANAGER--A nest in Anne Arundel Co. contained one cowbird egg and one tanager egg on May 30 (DRB).
- SUMMER TANAGER--A nest in Calvert Co. contained 3 young on June 17.
- CARDINAL--9 nests reported from 6 counties. Six nests contained a full clutch of 3; 3 had a full clutch of 4 eggs.
- INDIGO BUNTING--3 nests. Three young in a Prince Georges Co. nest as early as May 28 (JRL).
- DICKCISSEL--Ted Van Velzen found Maryland's third nest on June 4 with 4 eggs; it was along New Design Road in Frederick Co.
- RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE--2 ground nests reported: full clutch of 2 in Calvert Co.; full clutch of 4 in Prince Georges Co.
- GRASSHOPPER SPARROW--5 young in a Frederick Co. nest on June 4; 4 young in an Anne Arundel Co. nest on August 7.
- SHARP-TAILED SPARROW--Nest with 2 eggs on June 2 in Worcester Co. (WTV).
- SEASIDE SPARROW--6 nests reported from Worcester Co. Two eggs in one nest on June 30 (WTV), newly hatched young in another on June 14 (WTV).
- CHIPPING SPARROW--11 nests reported from 4 counties. Three nests with 2 eggs and 8 with 3 eggs. Average height, 4.8 ft.
- FIELD SPARROW--5 nests reported from 2 counties. Average height, 3 in. A Caroline Co. nest containing a cowbird egg was deserted. One nest contained a full clutch of 3 eggs; the rest, 4.

SONG SPARROW--3 nests reported from 3 counties. Two nests contained 4 eggs each in June.

Thanks are extended to all contributors, along with a reminder that any cards from 1967 or any other year that you have neglected to submit are still useful and will be gratefully accepted.

582 Rita Drive, Odenton 21113

AN ENCLOSURE AND A GUEST EDITORIAL

Nancy D. Rowe

Enclosed with this issue of Maryland Birdlife is a leaflet entitled "Field Trip Pointers - Part II - Participant's Guide." This guide to field trip techniques and etiquette was especially prepared for beginners but, it is hoped, may also help others enjoy more rewarding field trips, alone or in groups.

Its counterpart for Leaders, Part I (not enclosed), was also planned to serve a dual purpose: to encourage participants to become leaders and to offer suggestions to present leaders who might find a guide of this kind helpful. There is an increasingly critical need for more field trip leaders for both youth and adult groups, outside as well as within MOS.

Chapter Presidents may obtain copies of both Parts at the MOS Convention in May for subsequent use in their Chapters. The few references to practices of the Chapter for which these FTP's were first prepared may be easily overlooked when used by other groups.

We are living at a time when our remaining natural environment is severely threatened with misuse or destruction by those who lack knowledge or appreciation of its value. Yet never before has so much been known which substantiates the necessity, for instance, of preserving wetlands and wildlife habitats, and of restoring waters to their original quality.

It therefore becomes the responsibility of those who have this knowledge and appreciation to interpret it to the uninformed or misinformed. One of the most convincing means is through the medium of field trips where the great need for environmental conservation may be realistically demonstrated.

To this end it is hoped that a participant's sheer delight in observing birds will gradually develop into what Aldo Leopold called an "ecological conscience," and that this will eventually result in a conviction to lead others to this understanding.

Glen Arm

KING EIDERS SUMMERING IN CHESAPEAKE BAY

Jan G. Reese

During the past five summers a flock of from 15 to 40 diving ducks has been seen regularly at Poplar Island, Talbot County. Poplar Island, which is not inhabited by humans, is located in Chesapeake Bay, three miles offshore from the Bay Hundred Peninsula. During the five years, 1963-1967, the following species have been present: Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Oldsquaw, White-winged Scoter, Common Scoter, and Red-breasted Merganser. Some have appeared physically weakened, others had an injured wing, and a large percentage (especially Oldsquaws and Red-breasted Mergansers) had not acquired breeding plumage.

The summering flock of 1967 consisted basically of 19 Oldsquaws, 4 White-winged Scoters, 1 Common Scoter, and 1 Red-breasted Merganser. I very rarely see the same number of ducks on each visit, but the most accurate counts were obtained during the early morning hours.

One such visit was made at 7:45 a.m. on July 1, 1967, when I encountered 14 Oldsquaws, 2 White-winged Scoters, 1 Red-breasted Merganser, and an unidentified eider roosting on the bank at the north end of the island. I first spotted the eider as the ducks dove from the muddy bank into the water. I studied the constantly diving eider for twenty minutes at close range. It appeared to be a male, because of its blackish rather than brownish appearance; but although it was incapable of flight, a positive identification could not be made. I made subsequent visits to the island on July 3 and 9, but was still unable to determine the species.

On July 16, Donald Meritt, Paul Haddaway and I launched our boat at Neavitt and proceeded to Nelsons Island, which is in the Choptank River approximately 300 yards off the tip of the Broad Creek Neck peninsula and ten miles east-southeast of Poplar Island. Our purpose for visiting the island was to band the young Green Herons that had been hatched there. As we approached our usual landing site on the island, three ducks dove from a mud bank into the water. When they surfaced, two were immediately identified as Red-breasted Mergansers and the third, much to my amazement, was another eider. We followed the eider by boat, as I had the one at Poplar Island, with hopes of making a positive identification. We all agreed that this duck was a King Eider (Somateria spectabilis). It was a female with brownish appearance and dense blackish barring; and like the Poplar Island bird it was incapable of flight.

We returned to Nelsons Island and observed this second eider on July 23, August 5, 16, 30, and September 4 and 30. As a result of these repeated observations we were able to determine that the Nelsons Island eider was a female undergoing a complete body and flight feather molt.

On July 16, after observing the Nelsons Island eider and banding several young Green Herons, we proceeded to Poplar Island and collected

the first eider for positive identification. The specimen was prepared as a study skin and taken to the U. S. National Museum. Even in the hand the identification was not certain and it was only after direct comparison with the other specimens of juvenal male eiders in the collections, that definite identification as a King Eider was made by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel. The specimen is a male with a left testis measurement of 11 x 4 mm. The alimentary tract contained soft-shelled clams (*Mya arenaria*) and the bird was very fat. The bill was yellow-flesh proximally with a grayish tip, the legs and feet were horn yellow with charcoal webs, the iris was dark brown, and the bird weighed 1,475 grams. Its heavily worn juvenal plumage was being molted into first year eclipse plumage. In overall appearance the specimen is uniformly blackish-brown (slightly lighter ventrally), with a narrow whitish band around the upper chest.

There are six other specimens and one other sight record of the King Eider from Chesapeake Bay (Stewart and Robbins, Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia). All previous occurrences, however, were in November and December. The 1967 birds mark the first summer records of the King Eider in Maryland and the first recorded from Chesapeake Bay in 34 years. It is interesting that seven of the nine documented King Eiders from Chesapeake Bay occurred in or near the mouth of the Choptank River.

St. Michaels



In Remembrance

The following gifts of remembrance were made to the MOS Sanctuary Fund

Gift of:

In Memory of:

Sarah S. Baker	Gordon Merrick
Ethel A. Cobb	Samuel D. Robbins
Mr. & Mrs. T. Van Velzen	"
V. Edwin Unger	"
Patuxent Wildlife Research	"
Center Employees Assn.	

State-Wide Bird Count Report Forms

The annual State-wide Bird Count will be held this year on Saturday, May 4. We hope that we will be able to repeat the fine coverage of last year and, in addition, to obtain some coverage of the four counties not represented in last year's count: Carroll, Charles, Queen Annes and Wicomico.

For the convenience of both the field observers and the compiler, special forms have been prepared for use in reporting this year's count. All party leaders can obtain forms by sending a post card to Ted Van Velzen, Migratory Bird Populations Station, Laurel 20810.

BANDED SPARROW HAWK MAKES ROUND TRIP FLIGHT TO CAPE COD

V. Edwin Unger

On March 11, 1967 I banded a female Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*) 4 miles east of Denton in Caroline County, Maryland. I was pleased to receive word from the banding office that this bird was captured alive at Teaticket, Mass. on April 15. Then, on Nov. 26 of the same year, William S. Clark retrapped the very same bird west of Queen Anne, Maryland, approximately 15 miles from the place of banding!

Since the November date is beyond the normal migration period of the Sparrow Hawk, it is quite likely that this particular Sparrow Hawk is a winter resident of Maryland. And since it was captured in a building in Teaticket, this suggests that it was investigating a possible nesting site. Furthermore, since Teaticket is near the southwest corner of Cape Cod and well away from any spring migration route of Sparrow Hawks, this gives further support to the belief that the bird was captured on its breeding ground.

Although countless thousands of birds banded in Maryland must migrate to other states and nations and safely return here, it is most unusual for a round trip between the wintering ground and the breeding area to be documented. Is it too much to hope that this bird may be captured yet again and perhaps disclose part of the route it travels?

Federalsburg

JUNIOR PROGRAMS

ALLEGANY June 17 - 22 Junior Nature and Conservation Camp, to be held at Western Maryland 4-H Camp.

BALTIMORE Apr. 6, Bird Banding Demonstration at Cylburn 8 A.M. and 9:30 A.M.
Apr. 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 17, 18, 19, Bird and Nature walks at 9 A.M. at Cylburn
Apr. 9 and 16, Bird Banding Demonstrations, Cylburn 9 A.M.
Apr. 20 Bird and Nature Walk at Cylburn 8 A.M. Talk at 9 A.M. "Spring Flowers" by Mr. C. Donald Schott.
May 4 Bird walks, Cylburn at 7 and 8:30 A.M.
May 18 Bird walks, Cylburn at 7 and 8:30 A.M.
June 14, 15, 16 Junior Nature Camp at Camp Mohawk, Huntingtown, Calvert County, Maryland

KENT Apr. 13 Bird Banding demonstration at Mrs. Edward Mendinhall's. Meet at Emmanuel Church 8 a.m.
Apr. 27 Junior Nature Club meeting, 10 A.M. Emmanuel Church
May 18 Trip to Bombay Hook

Announcing: Maryland Avifauna No. 2

FIELD LIST OF THE BIRDS OF MARYLAND

by Chandler S. Robbins and Willet T. Van Velzen

The M.O.S. has just published a 44-page pamphlet that will be of interest to all members. Just look at what it contains!

- Complete up-to-date list of all species of birds on the official Maryland list.
- A separate Hypothetical List of birds that have been reported but are not yet on the official list: escapes; birds not yet collected or photographed or seen at least three times by experienced observers; and a few species that have been seen more than three times but are especially difficult to identify.
- Charts for each species (except Accidentals and Hypotheticals) showing period of normal occurrence in Maryland, periods of peak abundance, periods when irregular, and even isolated records outside the normal period. For any month of the year, you can see which species have been seen in Maryland during that month, and the relative abundance of each at that time of the year.
- Exact dates of the earliest and latest migration records. You can tell at a glance if your observation ties or breaks a State record. This is a new feature not found in any other field list.
- Exact dates of earliest and latest nests containing eggs. This is another "first." It reveals some amazing gaps in present knowledge of Maryland nesting dates.
- Sections of the State where each species is found, listed in sequence of decreasing abundance so you can tell where you stand the best chance of finding each species.
- Preferred habitats of each species are given to enable you to search in the best places for those birds on your want list.
- For the Accidental species, all localities where they have been seen are listed, as well as the dates of occurrence.
- A center map shows the locations of 50 Choice Birding Areas, representing all of Maryland's 23 counties.
- A brief statement for each of the 50 Choice Birding Areas tells how to get there and, in most cases, what species or groups of species each area is best for. There are frequent references telling where to get more details about the birds and the roads in these areas. If you save one week end for the Convention and one for a Christmas Count, it will take you a full year of week ends to visit all these special areas!

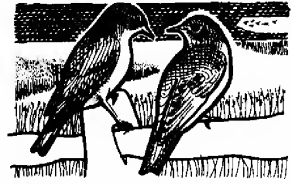
- The pages opposite the charts are ruled with 12 columns, so you can keep 12 bird lists in each booklet. You will find many uses for these!
 - For your Life List, there's plenty of room for the date and place where you first identified each species. There is space for 2 "write-ins" at the foot of each page, so the checklists can be used north to the Arctic Circle, south to the Gulf of Mexico, and west to the Great Plains!
 - If you keep county lists, 2 booklets will cover all 23 counties plus Baltimore City.
 - If you keep monthly lists, you will find the 12 columns ideal.
 - Or if you use one column for each year, a dollar's worth will last the rest of your birding life.
 - How about your vacation trips? A column for each State will provide a handy reference to your birding adventures.
 - You'll probably want one for your "Yard List" and another for each of your favorite birding localities that you visit frequently.
 - And don't forget one for recording your arrival and departure dates each year; and another for your "Life List" of nests found; and another for your yearly banding totals.
- Index on back cover provides rapid reference to the birds, which are listed in taxonomic sequence: water birds ahead of the map, land birds behind it.
- Heavy embossed cover for extra long wear.
- Just the right size to slip in your Field Guide.
- An ideal inexpensive gift for that new birder. The inside cover tells about M.O.S. and its activities.

When you see one, you'll want a dozen! Available through Local Chapters.

CONVENTION RESERVATIONS

Reservations for the May 10-12 Annual Convention should be made directly with the Hastings-Miramar, Ocean City, by May 1. The special M.O.S. rates below include two nights lodging, six meals starting with Friday night dinner, gratuity and Maryland Sales Tax. Phone AT9-7417.

Double room and bath	\$21.00 per person
Single room and bath	\$25.00 per person
Annex rooms, double	\$19.00 per person
Annex rooms, single	\$21.00 per person



THE SEASON

October, November, December, 1967

Chandler S. Robbins

October and November were cool and dry in Maryland, with average temperatures 2° to 4° below normal in October and 4° to 6° below the 30-year mean in November. The trend was reversed in December, with temperatures averaging a couple of degrees above the norm, and with precipitation normal or better throughout the State (twice normal in parts of the Coastal Plain). Fortunately, rainfall had been plentiful during most of the growing season, so fruits and seeds were abundant.

The combination of mild December weather and a bountiful supply of native foods in the woods and fields created opposite impressions of bird abundance. Those who assessed the situation from their kitchen windows were unanimous in their belief that birds were unaccountably scarce; while the field observers found many wintering species much more common than usual. To add to the contrast, the northern finches and Black-capped Chickadees, which would have found their way to the feeding stations had they come south this winter, stayed up north where there was a bumper cone crop for the second consecutive year.

A brief review of the passage of cold fronts across Maryland during October and November will enable the reader to view the bird concentrations in proper perspective. The major October cold fronts, those that produced a temperature drop of 10° or more, crossed our State on Oct. 1, 6, 9, 10, 18, 21, 25, and 28, and produced heavy groundings of birds at Ocean City on Oct. 2, 6-7, 12, 20, 22-23, 27, and 29-30. The major November cold fronts passed overhead on Nov. 2, 4, 12, 15, 23, and 26.

Thanks to the Operation Recovery stations at Ocean City, Damsite, St. Michaels and Hoopers Island, the migration of songbirds was well sampled on the Eastern Shore through the month of October. Bird observations waned along with the migration in November; then there was a final great flurry of observer activity during Christmas week.

Tables 1 and 2 summarize the late fall arrival dates and the departure dates for the entire season. The extreme dates cited are in most cases the earliest and latest reported for each species; but for a few species a later date that seemed to indicate a wintering rather than a migrating individual was omitted from Table 2.

Table 1. Fall Arrival Dates, 1967

Species	Balt	Howd	Mont	Pr.G	Anne	Calv	Kent	Caro	Talb	Dorc	Worc
Whistling Swan	11/12	0	0	11/13	11/7	--	12/9	11/9	10/22	10/7	0
Pintail	--	--	--	8/22	--	0	11/11	11/15	9/22	9/1	--
Green-winged Teal	--	--	10/2	8/7	--	0	--	11/1	11/22	9/22	--
Am. Widgeon	--	11/21	--	9/5	9/23	0	--	11/18	9/30	9/8	--
Bufflehead	--	11/6	--	10/30	12/9	0	12/9	0	10/31	--	--
Oldsquaw	0	0	0	0	12/9	0	12/9	0	10/1	--	--
White-winged Scoter	0	0	10/15	0	12/9	0	12/9	0	9/4	--	10/1
Ruddy Duck	--	10/8	--	12/11	10/15	--	11/11	0	10/22	10/7	--
Am. Coot	9/24	--	--	10/2	12/9	--	--	0	10/22	10/7	10/15
Saw-whet Owl	11/11	0	0	--	0	0	0	0	12/7	0	10/12
Red-breasted Nuthatch	10/7	0	0	0	0	0	10/22	12/23	--	10/15	10/7
Winter Wren	10/1	--	--	10/20	--	9/24	10/6	--	10/28	9/23	10/3
Hermit Thrush	10/7	10/9	--	10/9	10/8	10/8	10/4	10/23	10/14	10/6	10/3
Eastern Bluebird	--	11/1	10/14	--	--	10/12	--	10/2	10/29	--	--
Golden-crowned Kinglet	10/11	10/7	10/8	10/13	10/24	10/8	10/6	10/5	10/22	10/8	10/5
Orange-crowned Warbler	0	10/23	0	0	9/20	0	10/22	0	--	10/14	10/7
Rusty Blackbird	--	10/28	--	10/27	--	--	0	12/23	--	10/6	10/7
Evening Grosbeak	--	0	0	11/17	11/18	0	12/31	12/24	0	0	0
Purple Finch	10/8	10/28	10/20	10/27	10/22	12/26	10/14	10/20	10/8	10/6	9/17
Rouse Finch	11/1	--	--	0	10/21	0	12/31	12/23	--	--	12/27
Tree Sparrow	11/10	11/7	--	--	12/9	12/3	12/9	12/23	0	--	--
White-crowned Sparrow	0	10/13	--	--	10/21	0	10/10	11/21	10/22	10/22	10/11
Fox Sparrow	10/28	10/21	--	11/10	11/28	0	10/22	12/2	11/23	--	10/23
Lincoln's Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	10/4	0	0	9/23	9/20
Swamp Sparrow	10/1	10/9	--	--	10/7	9/24	10/7	10/23	10/9	10/8	9/21

The reports from each county were contributed by several observers. The more important records are also mentioned in the text, together with the names of the observers. The following members supplied most of the dates used in the tables: Western Maryland (Allegany, Washington and Frederick Counties)--Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Reynolds, Mrs. A. B. Mallonee, John W. Richards, Mrs. Sarah Baker, Elting Arnold, Walter Bohanan, Mrs. Austin L. Hoffman; Baltimore City and County--Haven Kolb, Stephen W. Simon, Mrs. Robert E. Kaestner; Harford--Mrs. Richard D. Cole, Mrs. Robert E. Kaestner; Howard--Mrs. Harry B. Rauth, Mrs. George Munro, Morris Collins; Montgomery--Robert W. Warfield, Mrs. John Frankel, Carl W. Carlson, Mrs. Sarah Baker; Prince Georges--Frank McGilvrey, Paul and Danny Bystrak, John H. Fales, Chandler S. Robbins; Anne Arundel--Prof. and Mrs. David Howard, Paul and Danny Bystrak, Judy Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Long; Calvert--John H. Fales; Kent--Mr. and Mrs. Edward Mendinall; Caroline--Marvin W. Hewitt, Ethel Engle, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fletcher, Alicia Knotts, Winifred Bright, Margarete Butenschoen; Talbot--Jan Reese, Don Meritt, Dickson Preston; Dorchester--Mr. and Mrs. Harry B. Armistead; Worcester--Mrs. Richard D. Cole, Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Donald, Mrs. Aldridge Pepper, Chandler S. Robbins, Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Bryan, Mrs. Bradley Fisk, Ted Van Velzen, David Bridge, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Kuch, Capt. and Mrs. J. E. M. Wood, Alexander Wetmore, V. Edwin Unger, Ted Stiles, Edward J. Rykiel, Jr., Vernon Kleen.

Hérons, Egrets, and Ibis. There were several late reports of egrets, starting with 2 tardy Common Egrets far inland at Lilypons on Oct. 7 (Robert W. Warfield). On the same day there were 47 Common Egrets at Elliott Island and a Glossy Ibis at the Visitor's Center at Blackwater Refuge (Mr. and Mrs. Harry Armistead). There were more October records of Cattle Egrets than ever before: maximum counts of 8 at Hoopers Island on Oct. 6 and Oct. 8, and 9 at Blackwater on the 6th; and as many as 6 at Hoopers Island on the late date of Oct. 21 (Armisteads). Late Snowy Egrets were still at Elliott Island on Oct. 7 (6 birds), Hoopers Island

Table 2. Fall Departure Dates, 1967

Species	Latest				W.Md	Balt	Harf	Howd	Mont	Pr.G	Anne	Calv	Kent	Caro	Talb	Dorc	Worc
	1964	1965	1966	1967													
Green Heron	10/11	11/ 1	12/15	10/15	--	9/29	--	9/21	10/15	9/12	--	9/ 5	--	--	10/13	10/ 6	9/17
Common Egret	10/18	12/15	11/20	10/14	10/12	0	--	0	10/ 7	9/19	0	0	0	8/31	9/16	10/14	9/30
Snowy Egret	10/18	10/30	9/17	10/22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10/22	10/15	10/22
Canada Goose		11/29	12/ 4	12/30	10/ 8	11/14	--	11/ 6	11/13	12/30	10/16	11/ 9	--	--	--	--	--
Wood Duck			11/30	12/18	--	--	--	--	--	12/18	--	--	--	11/18	10/31	0	--
Broad-winged Hawk	10/11	10/17	10/ 9	10/22	--	--	--	10/ 7	10/22	0	0	--	0	0	10/ 8	10/14	0
Osprey	10/29	10/10	10/29	10/21	10/12	10/21	--	10/ 7	10/ 6	0	0	10/ 7	0	--	10/ 8	10/ 8	--
Semipalmated Plover			10/ 2	10/ 4	0	0	0	0	--	0	0	0	0	10/ 4	9/16	9/17	--
Am. Woodcock	11/15		10/26	11/26	--	11/26	--	11/13	--	9/20	--	10/ 8	10/29	--	10/26	--	--
Spotted Sandpiper	10/22	10/10	10/21	12/18	--	12/18	9/30	--	--	--	--	0	--	--	9/ 4	9/22	--
Black Tern			9/17		8/20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9/ 4	9/17	0
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	10/31	11/21	10/11	10/12	--	--	--	9/ 3	--	8/10	9/12	10/ 8	10/11	9/21	--	0	10/12
Whip-poor-will	10/ 5	10/17	10/20	10/ 8	--	9/15	0	9/15	0	0	0	--	0	9/22	10/ 8	0	0
Common Nighthawk	10/ 9	9/20	10/ 4	10/ 4	--	8/14	9/ 4	9/19	10/ 4	9/19	9/ 8	0	0	9/13	9/ 4	0	--
Chimney Swift	10/18	10/15	10/21	10/ 8	10/ 6	10/ 3	9/30	10/ 7	10/ 8	10/ 6	10/ 5	10/ 5	--	10/ 4	10/ 3	10/ 7	--
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	10/ 5	10/ 2	10/15	10/14	9/23	--	9/ 9	9/12	--	9/ 3	9/24	9/24	9/12	--	10/14	10/ 8	9/14
Yellow-shafted Flicker	10/31	10/29	10/30	11/ 3	10/14	12/ 4	--	10/28	--	11/ 3	--	11/ 3	10/14	--	10/13	--	10/29
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker	10/19	11/28	11/24	11/21	10/14	10/21	--	11/ 7	--	--	--	11/12	10/21	11/21	10/22	--	10/22
Eastern Kingbird	9/18	9/ 7	10/ 8	9/19	--	8/20	--	9/ 3	--	8/16	8/11	9/14	--	9/19	9/10	--	9/11
Gt. Crested Flycatcher	10/12	10/22	10/ 1	10/ 6	--	--	--	9/ 9	--	--	9/ 8	--	9/12	--	--	9/15	10/ 6
Eastern Phoebe	10/30	11/ 6	11/18	11/29	10/14	10/19	--	10/26	11/29	10/23	10/15	10/ 9	10/31	11/ 4	10/29	10/22	11/11
Yel-bellied Flycatcher	10/ 5	10/ 4	10/25	10/ 3	--	0	9/ 4	0	0	0	0	0	10/ 3	0	9/12	0	9/20
Acadian Flycatcher	9/26	10/10	9/29	10/28	--	9/20	--	--	--	--	9/ 8	8/13	--	--	--	9/23	10/28
Traill's Flycatcher	10/ 6	10/ 2	10/13	10/ 8	--	--	0	0	--	--	0	0	0	0	0	10/ 1	10/ 8
Least Flycatcher	10/ 7	10/14	10/22	10/27	--	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9/ 5	0	0	9/23	10/27
Eastern Wood Pewee	10/18	10/20	10/27	10/27	--	9/19	--	9/23	--	9/29	9/24	9/23	9/23	10/ 5	10/ 8	9/23	10/27
Tree Swallow	11/ 7	10/30	10/16	11/ 2	--	0	--	11/ 2	10/ 5	--	9/24	--	--	10/27	10/29	--	10/ 1
Barn Swallow	11/21	9/11	10/25	9/17	--	9/ 1	--	9/17	8/31	9/ 1	8/27	8/19	--	--	9/16	--	--
Purple Martin	10/ 3	9/12	9/ 1	9/14	--	8/29	--	--	8/16	8/11	9/ 6	9/ 6	--	--	--	--	9/14
Blue Jay	10/24	10/26	11/ 1	11/ 6	10/14	--	--	10/ 9	--	--	--	11/ 6	10/22	--	10/29	10/ 6	10/17
White-br. Nuthatch	10/18	10/30	10/27	11/15	--	--	--	11/15	--	--	--	0	10/30	--	10/22	0	0
Red-br. Nuthatch	11/ 1	11/ 2	10/31	10/29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10/29	--	0	--	10/24
House Wren	10/25	11/ 2	10/22	10/25	--	10/15	--	10/ 7	--	10/ 2	10/17	10/ 7	10/22	10/25	10/22	10/21	10/20
Catbird	10/31	11/ 4	11/24	12/ 2	10/10	10/15	9/30	10/17	10/15	10/20	10/25	10/ 1	10/23	12/ 2	10/23	10/22	10/30
Brown Thrasher	10/29	11/ 3	11/20	12/ 2	--	10/ 9	9/24	9/30	--	10/16	10/21	10/ 7	10/11	12/ 2	10/30	10/14	10/29
Wood Thrush	10/20	11/24	10/31	10/29	--	10/ 7	9/30	9/21	--	--	10/12	9/24	10/24	10/11	10/ 3	10/21	10/29
Hermit Thrush	11/ 7	11/15	11/22	11/16	--	10/27	--	--	11/16	--	10/29	--	10/31	11/ 3	10/29	10/22	10/31
Swainson's Thrush	10/24	10/24	10/30	10/27	0	10/ 7	9/30	10/ 9	--	10/ 9	10/ 6	10/ 8	10/27	10/ 4	10/21	10/27	10/27
Gray-cheeked Thrush	10/31	10/26	10/30	10/26	0	10/ 5	9/23	9/30	--	0	10/14	0	10/23	10/ 3	10/ 3	10/22	10/26
Veery	10/27	10/13	10/23	10/14	--	--	--	9/23	--	--	10/ 6	10/ 8	9/30	10/ 4	9/23	10/14	10/12
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	10/11	9/21	10/ 9	10/ 1	8/27	--	--	9/13	--	9/ 6	--	9/ 5	9/23	--	--	--	10/ 1
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	11/17	11/29	11/13	11/29	--	11/12	--	11/ 4	10/15	11/18	11/29	10/29	10/31	--	10/26	10/22	11/ 1

Species	Latest				W.Md	Balt	Harf	Howd	Mont	Pr.G	Anne	Calv	Kent	Caro	Talb	Dorc	Worc
	1964	1965	1966	1967													
Cedar Waxwing		12/ 8	11/20	12/ 9	--	12/ 1	--	11/12	11/ 8	--	--	--	12/ 9	10/ 7	--	11/18	10/30
White-eyed Vireo	10/19	10/18	10/22	10/21	--	--	9/ 9	9/25	--	9/12	--	9/17	9/27	--	--	10/21	10/12
Solitary Vireo	10/27	10/28	10/24	10/27	--	10/12	0	0	10/ 8	10/ 2	0	0	10/24	10/ 4	0	10/22	10/27
Red-eyed Vireo	10/31	10/27	10/24	10/27	--	9/30	9/30	10/ 3	10/ 5	--	10/ 2	10/ 8	10/14	10/11	--	10/22	10/27
Black-&-white Warbler	10/24	10/29	10/28	10/22	9/16	10/ 6	9/30	10/ 7	--	10/ 9	10/22	10/ 8	10/11	10/ 9	10/ 8	10/ 8	10/22
Tennessee Warbler	10/21	10/17	10/23	10/22	0	0	0	0	10/ 5	0	9/21	0	10/ 3	0	0	10/ 1	10/22
Nashville Warbler	10/28	10/25	10/21	10/30	9/24	0	0	10/12	--	0	10/15	0	10/ 5	0	0	10/22	10/30
Parula Warbler	10/19	10/15	10/28	10/27	--	9/26	--	9/ 3	--	--	--	9/11	--	--	10/15	10/ 1	10/27
Orange-crowned Warbler	10/15		10/30	10/31	0	0	0	--	0	0	--	0	10/24	0	12/31	--	10/31
Yellow Warbler	10/ 5	9/27	9/30	10/16	--	--	--	9/11	--	--	9/13	9/ 7	--	--	10/16	9/21	10/12
Magnolia Warbler	10/24	10/24	10/30	10/22	9/24	10/ 7	9/30	10/ 9	10/ 8	10/ 9	10/ 9	9/24	10/10	10/10	0	10/21	10/22
Cape May Warbler	10/23	10/25	10/30	10/29	0	9/ 3	0	9/25	--	0	10/ 1	0	10/10	--	0	9/24	10/29
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	10/21	10/27	10/24	10/31	--	10/ 6	9/24	10/ 9	10/21	10/ 4	0	10/ 8	10/22	--	9/17	10/22	10/31
Myrtle Warbler	11/ 7	11/25	12/10	12/ 2	10/14	12/ 2	--	11/16	11/ 6	10/23	11/10	--	10/31	--	10/29	10/22	11/ 2
Black-thr.Green Warbler	10/20	10/29	10/22	10/22	10/10	10/ 9	9/30	10/ 9	--	10/ 2	10/12	10/ 8	10/ 8	10/ 4	10/22	10/ 1	10/21
Blackburnian Warbler	10/21	10/10	10/24	10/ 7	--	0	0	9/24	0	10/ 4	10/ 7	0	10/ 6	0	9/10	--	10/ 1
Chestnut-sided Warbler	10/20	10/25	10/22	10/12	--	10/ 6	0	9/24	0	0	10/ 1	0	9/24	0	0	9/24	10/12
Bay-breasted Warbler	10/18	10/24	10/16	10/14	0	9/19	0	10/ 1	--	0	10/ 7	10/ 8	9/17	10/11	0	--	10/14
Blackpoll Warbler	10/30	10/29	10/31	10/27	0	0	0	--	10/21	0	10/ 7	9/23	10/15	10/11	10/ 8	0	10/27
Palm Warbler	11/ 8	11/ 2	10/31	11/ 2	0	--	0	10/ 9	0	--	10/15	--	10/28	0	11/ 2	10/22	11/ 2
Ovenbird	10/31	10/14	10/24	10/27	0	--	9/24	9/24	--	9/25	--	--	10/11	--	--	10/ 8	10/ 8
Northern Waterthrush	10/18	10/14	10/18	10/21	--	--	0	0	0	--	9/23	0	9/24	--	9/ 9	10/21	10/15
Connecticut Warbler	10/24	10/16	10/ 8	10/ 9	0	0	9/24	0	0	9/12	9/24	0	9/23	--	9/23	9/15	10/ 9
Mourning Warbler	9/12	10/ 7	10/ 9	10/12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10/ 8	10/ 3	0	0	9/23	10/12
Yellowthroat	11/ 5	10/30	11/24	10/23	--	10/ 7	9/24	10/13	10/15	10/ 8	10/15	10/ 7	10/23	10/ 2	10/22	10/22	11/ 2
Yellow-br. Chat	11/ 8	10/18	10/29	10/27	--	--	9/30	9/12	11/ 5	--	--	--	10/14	--	11/ 4	10/ 1	10/27
Wilson's Warbler	10/ 6	11/ 8	10/26	10/ 6	0	0	0	10/ 1	0	--	0	0	10/ 6	0	0	--	9/27
Canada Warbler	10/ 6	9/26	10/19	10/ 7	8/27	--	9/10	10/ 7	--	9/ 3	10/ 2	10/ 1	9/18	9/13	9/26	10/ 1	10/ 2
Am. Redstart	10/29	10/27	11/ 1	10/29	--	9/28	--	9/25	--	9/24	9/24	9/22	--	10/ 4	10/15	10/ 8	10/29
Bobolink	9/12	10/ 2	9/30	10/ 6	0	0	9/30	0	--	--	9/24	9/ 7	0	8/29	9/21	10/ 6	10/ 1
Baltimore Oriole	11/21	10/28	11/20	11/17	--	11/17	--	9/ 7	11/11	--	--	9/19	--	--	--	--	10/27
Scarlet Tanager	10/15	10/25	10/24	10/23	--	10/ 6	9/30	10/ 4	--	9/26	10/12	10/ 8	10/12	10/ 3	9/26	10/14	10/23
Rose-br. Grosbeak	10/20	10/ 5	10/23	10/13	--	10/ 6	9/30	10/ 7	10/12	0	10/ 2	10/ 8	9/26	0	10/ 8	9/14	10/13
Blue Grosbeak	10/23	9/19	10/24	10/28	0	0	0	--	--	--	10/ 1	8/29	9/21	10/ 2	--	9/22	10/28
Indigo Bunting	10/27	10/29	10/26	10/30	--	10/ 1	--	9/25	10/ 2	--	10/ 1	9/17	9/21	10/19	10/ 2	10/14	10/30
Rufous-sided Towhee	11/ 7	11/ 6	11/19	12/ 1	--	12/ 1	--	10/30	--	10/26	10/29	10/22	10/31	--	10/29	10/22	10/29
Savannah Sparrow	11/15	11/21	11/ 1	11/ 2	--	--	--	10/ 5	--	--	--	--	10/29	--	10/29	--	11/ 2
Vesper Sparrow	11/17	11/ 2	10/30	10/31	--	--	--	--	--	10/20	0	--	0	--	12/31	--	10/31
Chipping Sparrow	11/ 6	11/ 5	10/30	10/30	--	10/18	--	10/29	10/26	10/26	9/19	10/22	--	10/16	10/22	--	10/30
White-crowned Sparrow	10/31		11/ 1	11/19	--	--	--	10/29	--	--	11/19	0	10/10	--	10/29	10/22	10/30
Fox Sparrow	12/ 6	12/ 3	12/ 1	11/24	0	11/11	0	11/29	11/19	11/17	11/24	--	10/30	--	11/23	--	10/30
Lincoln's Sparrow	11/ 1	11/ 7	10/31	10/23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10/23	0	0	10/22	10/22

on Oct. 15 (15 birds, Armistead), and St. Michaels on Oct. 22 (2 birds, Jan Reese). An immature Little Blue Heron was seen at Blackwater on Oct. 21 (Armistead). Herons also made a fine showing on the Christmas Counts, with the first record for the Little Blue in Kent County (Ruhnka), the first Snowy for Talbot, 2 probable Snowy Egrets in southern Dorchester County, the first Green Heron for the Rock Run circle (actually at Perry Point in Cecil County by Bill Clark), the third Green Heron for Ocean City (Willoughby, Willoughby and Holmes), new high counts for the Great Blue at Ocean City (96) and Rock Run (6), and 2 individuals way up the Potomac at Cumberland.

Swans. Few observers mentioned swan migration; there was not a single report outside the tidewater counties. The earliest arrivals of Whistling Swans were a single bird at Elliott on Oct. 7 (Armistead) and 4 in Talbot County on Oct. 22 (Reese).

Geese. In marked contrast to the swan migration, the mass arrival of Canada Geese on Oct. 6 and 7 was truly spectacular. On the 6th flocks were reported from Downsville (Mrs. Mallonee), South Mountain (Mrs. Frankel), Gambrill State Park (Mrs. Hoffman), Silver Spring and Hyattsville (Warfield), and Blackwater Refuge (8,010 counted by Armistead). On the 7th the flight started before dawn and continued through the day. Mrs. Hoffman counted 1,114 birds (16 flocks) over Gambrill State Park in Frederick County; Robert Warfield noted a large influx over Frederick and Montgomery Counties, climaxed by 9 flocks in 75 minutes over Gaithersburg; Mrs. Frankel saw some over her home in Bethesda; Mrs. Rauth counted 849 (28 flocks) over Howard County, estimated 100 in another flock and saw 8 other flocks; Robbins estimated 540 (11 flocks) over his house in Prince Georges County near Laurel; Haven Kolb reported a "Day-long, spectacular flight" over Baltimore County; and flights were noted over various parts of Anne Arundel County by Prof. and Mrs. David Howard, Judy Wilson, and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Long. Hawk Mountain, Pa. reported over 2,500 Canada Geese on the 6th; and Mrs. Laitsch's column in The Redstart commented on "big V days October 6, 7, 8 over most of the [West Virginia, western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio] region." St. Michaels observers broke the Maryland Christmas Count record when they estimated 123,000 Canada Geese on Dec. 31. A small Canada Goose (probably hutchinsii) and a record-early Blue Goose were studied at Blackwater on Oct. 1 (Armisteads), and on Oct. 21 these observers estimated 70 Blue Geese and 20 Snow Geese at Blackwater. There were 265 and 155, respectively, on the Christmas Count there. Inland, Bob Warfield saw a Snow Goose over Germantown on Oct. 8.

Ducks. An estimate in excess of 200 Wood Ducks on Oct. 31 was a surprisingly high tally for Talbot County (Don Meritt). The first King Eider of the season was sighted just off Assateague Island on Nov. 11 (Warfield). Record-breaking Christmas Count totals were as follows: 272 Green-winged Teal, 66 Shovelers, and 105 Redheads at Ocean City; 750 Buffleheads, 11 Ruddy Ducks, and 262 Red-breasted Mergansers in Southern Dorchester County; and 58 Buffleheads and 144 Common Mergansers at Rock Run.

Hawks and Eagles. In commenting upon a hawk flight witnessed in Talbot County on Oct. 8, Jan Reese was more impressed with 3 Cooper's Hawks than with the 100 or more Broad-wings and 75-plus Sparrow Hawks that he saw the same day. In view of the rapid decline in Cooper's Hawks in recent years, it is worth noting that no other Maryland observer reported more than 2 Cooper's Hawks on any day in 1967. The age ratio of Bald Eagles reported during October and November from the Eastern Shore was 12 immatures to 8 white-headed adults (60% immatures); on the Christmas Counts received there were 9 immatures to 11 adults (45% immatures). Although these are small samples, 20 birds each, it seems worth while to make the figures available to biologists who are keeping a close eye on the status of this species. Highlights from the Christmas Counts were: 3 Rough-legs (tie for highest) at Catoctin Mountain and 19 (2nd highest) in Southern Dorchester County; 22 Red-tails (2nd highest) in Southern Dorchester County; single Golden Eagles at Blackwater Refuge and Ocean City; Osprey for the first time at Ocean City (Holmes and Willoughbys) and Salisbury; 15 Sparrow Hawks (new high) at Catoctin and 51 in Kent County (3rd highest); and, the real surprise of the season, a Goshawk carefully identified at close range at Fulton on the Dec. 24 Triadelphia Count (James Ruos).

Gallinules, Plovers and Turnstones. Harold Wierenga found 3 Common Gallinules at Sandy Point State Park on Oct. 26 and one of them remained to Nov. 7. The mild weather of early winter appeared to favor the attempted wintering of Killdeer; 50 (a new high) were seen on the Kent County Christmas Count, 101 (3rd highest) in Southern Dorchester County, 32 at Catoctin, and 1 as far inland as Cumberland. Ocean City counters found an unprecedented 156 Ruddy Turnstones (previous high, 20) on Dec. 27.

Sandpipers and Phalaropes. Late departures of interest were a Spotted Sandpiper that was seen repeatedly through Dec. 18 in the Wood-lawn section of Baltimore City (Hervey Brackbill); a Lesser Yellowlegs at Henderson on Nov. 22 (Marvin Hewitt); a White-rumped Sandpiper at Sandy Point on Oct. 26 (Prof. Wierenga); and 4 Western Sandpipers at Blackwater on Nov. 4 (Armistead). The Denton Christmas Counters found 5 Am. Wood-cocks, tying the Ocean City tally. Some of the choice birds on the Dec. 27 Ocean City count were 5 Knots (3rd Maryland winter record, John Terborgh and John Weske), 3 Marbled Godwits (2nd Maryland winter record, Ralph Andrews and Vernon Kleen), 122 Purple Sandpipers (3rd highest), and a Red Phalarope (first Maryland winter record, Will Russell, Armistead, Kleen and Andrews).

Gulls, Dovekie. Up, up, up goes the Great Black-backed Gull population. The Count circle centered on Rock Run Sanctuary, 5 miles up the Susquehanna River from the head of Chesapeake Bay, yielded a fantastic total of 181 individuals, exceeding all previous counts for the Ocean City area. As recently as 1956 the highest winter count for the whole State was a mere 26 individuals. Ocean City broke its own record this year with 205, but Kent County, with 247, fell short of its State record of 274--only because of a blinding snowstorm during their 1967 Count. The only 'fancy' gull of the whole period was an immature Black-headed

Gull on the Dec. 27 Ocean City Count (Russell and Armistead). The only alcid of the winter was a Dovekie that spent much of Dec. 27 in the Ocean City Inlet (Ira N. Gabrielson, Kleen and many others). Unless someone can produce a prior fall record of the Bonaparte's Gull in Montgomery County, observations of 4 on Oct. 29 and 2 on Nov. 26 at Seneca will stand as the first. A revised "Natural History of Plummers Island, Maryland" by Richard H. Manville (Washington Biologists' Field Club, Jan. 1968) gives only spring records of this species.

Owls. This appears to be the first winter that owls have been found on all of the Maryland Christmas Counts--a tribute to the dedicated efforts of the compilers and participants. At St. Michaels, where two owl parties started at midnight and a third went out at 4 a.m., a tally of 76 Screech Owls smashed the State record. The State Christmas Count total of 313 owls of 6 species included 153 Great Horns, 122 Screech and 22 Barred Owls.

Woodpeckers. Woodpeckers in general made an excellent showing on the Christmas Counts, although the banders will testify that there was almost no influx of Downy or Hairy Woodpeckers this fall. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were especially conspicuous, with record-breaking Christmas Count totals of 41 at Ocean City (previous high was 18), 19 at St. Michaels, and 5 at Rock Run (previous high, 3). Pileated Woodpeckers were found on nearly all Maryland counts, with 19 at Ocean City being the third best on record. Red-bellied Woodpeckers broke no records, but showed up very well in most areas: 35 at Catoctin, 91 at Triadelphia, 94 in Kent, 84 at Ocean City. As usual, the Yellow-shafted Flicker was the most conspicuous woodpecker on the Ocean City count (163 individuals).

Flycatchers. The Eastern Phoebe shows signs of becoming once again a winter resident of Maryland. At Ocean City, 7 were reported this year; others were found at Rock Run (first record), Kent (second), Salisbury, and Seneca. An Acadian Flycatcher banded at Ocean City on Oct. 28 and a Least on Oct. 27 (both by Margaret Donnalld) set new State records.

Jays. The Blue Jay flight reached its peak in the first week of October, with high tallies of 400 on Oct. 1 and 875 on Oct. 6 at Hoopers Island (Armistead). West of the Bay the largest single flock was reported from Laurel, where 165 birds flew southwestward just above the treetops half an hour after sunrise on Oct. 4 (Robbins). Although the great majority of the migrant Blue Jays continued south to warmer climes, the number remaining to winter was well above normal: 1007 at Seneca, 594 (2nd highest) at Triadelphia, 592 at St. Michaels, 536 at Kent, 398 at Baltimore, and 107 (3rd highest) at Ocean City.

Nuthatches, Wrens. Only 7 counties reported Red-breasted Nuthatches; the highest Christmas Count totals, 2 birds, came from Allegany County and Elkton. White-breasted Nuthatches showed no more migration than the Red-breasts, according to the banding stations; so totals remained low throughout the State. Christmas Counters did unusually well on wrens, thanks to the absence of prolonged hard freezing weather. All 6 species were identified at Ocean City, with the Bewick's (Terborgh and Weske)

only the second winter occurrence there. House Wrens appeared at Triadelphia (first time, Stiles), Seneca (Carl Carlson, George Robbins), Southern Dorchester, St. Michaels, and Ocean City. Fifty Winter Wrens were noted at Ocean City, but more significant were 5 that tied the high count in Kent County and 12 that placed second for Triadelphia.

Mockers, Kinglets. Catbirds and Brown Thrashers were also among the species that wintered in better numbers than usual. Both species were seen on Piedmont Christmas Counts at Rock Run and Triadelphia, and a Brown Thrasher was found as far west as Cumberland. Ocean City, which has now been covered for 20 consecutive years, had 30 Catbirds this year, a notable increase over the previous high of 21. Both species of kinglets also joined the ranks of the abnormally abundant. There were record-breaking totals of 122 Golden-crowns and 18 Ruby-crowns at Triadelphia, and both species placed second or third in several other areas.

Warblers. Turning now from high winter counts to late dates, we find that despite the month of October averaging 4° below normal on the Eastern Shore, several extreme departure dates of long standing were broken this fall. Except for two very late Ocean City records, a Blue-winged Warbler banded at Damsite, Chestertown on Oct. 8 is the latest of this species ever seen in Maryland. A 40-year-old departure record for the Yellow Warbler was broken three times this October; single birds were banded at Ocean City on Oct. 10 and Oct. 12 (Bridge) and at St. Michaels on Oct. 16 (Jan Reese). A Cape May Warbler was banded at Ocean City on Oct. 29 (Bob Pepper), and a Black-throated Blue on Oct. 31, tying the latest for the State (Robbins). A Bay-breast banded at Ocean City on Oct. 14 (Mrs. R. D. Cole) is the latest on file for the Eastern Shore, as are a Northern Waterthrush banded at Hoopers Island on Oct. 21 (Armistead), and a Mourning Warbler banded at Ocean City on Oct. 12 (Bridge). A Hooded Warbler banded at Ocean City on Oct. 30 (Mrs. Cole) is by more than three weeks the latest ever reported in Maryland. The majority of the Orange-crowned Warbler reports were clustered in the period Oct. 23-31. An immature male Cape May Warbler appeared in early December at the feeder of Mr. and Mrs. George P. Miller of Fulton. It fed daily at their suet feeder through Dec. 30. Mrs. George Munro made a careful sketch of the bird, and it was also photographed in color by Mr. Miller, thus confirming this first mid-winter record for the State.

Finches and Sparrows. True to predictions, this was a very poor season in Maryland for northern finches. Not a single Pine Siskin or crossbill was reported, and only a few of the most favored feeding shelves attracted Evening Grosbeaks. Single late or wintering Dickcissels were found at Ocean City (banded on Nov. 1 by Mrs. Cole), Annapolis (Nov. 11-19, Wierenga), Baltimore (Dec. 28-31, Mrs. Martin Larrabee), and Clarks-ville (Dec. 24, C. S. Robbins). Rufous-sided Towhees wintered in large numbers and became conspicuous at feeding stations during inclement weather; on the majority of Christmas Counts their numbers were the second or third highest on record. Most sparrows were in the same category with the towhees; there were several high counts for most species, but no one species was outstanding in abundance in all parts of the State.

Migratory Bird Populations Station, Laurel



THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

V. Edwin Unger

As a youngster, I was given to taking strolls through the woodlands that surrounded our farm, imagining, at times, that I was on a venturesome expedition. On one memorable occasion, I pushed myself through a tangle of undergrowth and emerged into a sort of glade completely unlike the surrounding woods. Within this glade itself were a few scattered trees, growing straight and tall. A carpet of green moss covered the area. There was no undergrowth, but here and there a holly grew in the semi-shade. Opposite my point of entry and almost completely enclosing the spot, was a dense stand of young pine, providing a measure of seclusion which, coupled with the beauty and serenity of the place, made the spot something very special to me, a veritable Shangri-La (although the word had not as yet been coined). Naturally, I went there often thereafter.

Following a protracted absence, the duration and the cause of which I can no longer recall, I returned to the spot one day only to find that lumbermen had cut the few timber trees and had otherwise despoiled the whole scene. I was distraught, for I had lost something dear. This was no shattered dream. Something real, something living, beautiful and majestic had ceased to exist.

The sense of loss which all but overwhelmed me at the time is as indelibly etched upon my memory as is the beauty of that idyllic spot. My distress over the incident has, of course abated, but in recent years it has been frequently rekindled for something like this is happening again and again, not just to me, but to all of you as well. It is happening all across our land and in other lands too.

There are those who take these things for granted, thinking that they are the inevitable consequence of increased population and of "progress". Isn't it obvious that if enough people become aware of the values, tangible and intangible, of our natural resources, including such basic ones as pure air and water, and if they are made to see that these things are threatened, then they will find the means to protect and to save them?

We have a stake and a responsibility in the process of creating this awareness. Let us dedicate ourselves to that task.

Federalsburg



COMING EVENTS

- April 9 BALTIMORE MOS Class; "Nature and the Child", 8 P.M., Cylburn.
 12 ANNE ARUNDEL Annual meeting at A A C Library 7:30 P. M.
 16 BALTIMORE Lake Roland 8 A.M. Tuesdays through May 7th.
 18 MONTGOMERY Monthly meeting 8 P. M. "Migration". Speaker:
 David Bridge of Smithsonian Institution.
 19 BALTIMORE Annual Meeting, Cylburn 8 P. M.
 20) KENT Field trip to Brigantine, New Jersey. Leader:
 21) Edward Mendinhall
 21 BALTIMORE C & O Canal, near Frederick. Mrs. George Eleul
 21 MONTGOMERY New Design Road and Point of Rocks. Meet at
 junction of M28 and US 15 before 8 A.M.
 22 WICOMICO Monthly meeting, Asbury Church, 8 P. M. Scout
 Room. Film "Tent Flaps and Flapjacks".
 23 PATUXENT Monthly meeting
 24 ALLEGANY Monthly meeting 7:30 P.M., Board of Education
 Bldg. Speaker: Mr. Dale Fuller
 27-28 ALLEGANY Work days at Carey Run Sanctuary
 27 ANNE ARUNDEL Annapolis Waterworks Wildlife Area 8 a.m. Leader:
 Dottie Mumford. Meet at reservoir, about 1½ miles
 beyond Carr's corner on Md. 450.
 28 FREDERICK Field trip to Lilypons
 30 BALTIMORE Warbler Song Class. Leader: Mr. Chandler S.
 Robbins. Cylburn 8 P. M.
- May 2 FREDERICK Monthly meeting
 4 STATEWIDE MAY COUNT
 10-12 STATEWIDE ANNUAL CONVENTION. Make own reservations at
 Hastings-Miramar Hotel, Ocean City, Maryland.
 11 BALTIMORE Loch Raven Area for those unable to attend
 Convention. Leader: Mr. William Corliss.
 16 MONTGOMERY Monthly meeting "Sea Birds"
 18 BALTIMORE Bird and Flower walk. Leader: Mrs. Elmer G.
 Worthley.
 19 FREDERICK Field trip to Linganore section.
 25 ANNE ARUNDEL Bird walk and visit to Cylburn Wildflower Preserve
 and Garden Center, Baltimore. Meet at Parole
 Parking 7:45 A.M.
 25 MONTGOMERY Sea Bird Cruise.
 26 BALTIMORE Finally Farm, in Phoenix. Birding along the
 Gunpowder. Leaders: Mr. & Mrs. Otis Mace.
 26 FREDERICK Field trip.
- June 5 KENT Monthly meeting. Speaker: Mr. John Hunter on
 "Snails".

- June 11 BALTIMORE Picnic Supper, McKeldin Section Patapsco State Park, 6:30 P. M. Courtship flight of Night Hawk
- 14-16 BALTIMORE Junior Nature Camp at Camp Mohawk, Huntingtown, Calvert County, Md.
- 15-16 ALLEGANY Pre-camp training at Western Maryland 4-H Center
- 17-22 ALLEGANY Junior Nature and Conservation Camp. Western Maryland 4-H Center.
- 22-23 ALLEGANY Carey Run Sanctuary Anniversary Week-end, Chairmen: Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Minke.
- July 7 STATEWIDE Kent County Chapter will host all Chapters at all day picnic at The Mendinghalls', "Damsite" Chestertown, Md.

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